

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A holographic recording and reproducing method for recording holographic data in and reproducing holographic data from a holographic recording medium comprising ~~at least~~ a recording layer in which data are to be recorded as phase information of light by projecting a signal beam and a reference beam thereonto, a beam spot incidence region for the signal beam and the reference beam disposed on the opposite side of the recording layer as viewed in the direction of signal beam and reference beam incidence on the holographic recording medium and a filter region formed in at least a part of a periphery of the beam spot incidence region, the holographic recording and reproducing method comprising:

~~steps of~~ setting a beam spot diameter of the signal beam or the reference beam at a diffraction limit thereof equal to or smaller than a minimum width of the beam spot incidence region; and

projecting the signal beam or the reference beam onto the holographic recording medium.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The holographic recording and reproducing method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the beam spot incidence region and the filter region have different optical constants from each other.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The holographic recording and reproducing method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the beam spot incidence region is constituted as a reflection region of the signal beam and the reference beam, and the filter region is constituted as an absorption region of the signal beam and the reference beam.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The holographic recording and reproducing method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the beam spot incidence region is constituted as a reflection region of the signal beam and the reference beam, and the filter region is constituted as an absorption region of the signal beam and the reference beam.

5. (Currently Amended) A holographic recording medium comprising: at least  
a recording layer in which data are to be recorded as phase information of light by projecting a signal beam and a reference beam thereonto;  
-a beam spot incidence region of the signal beam and the reference beam disposed on the opposite side of the recording layer as viewed in the direction of signal beam and reference beam incidence on the holographic recording medium; and  
a filter region formed in at least a part of a periphery of the beam spot incidence region, a minimum width of the beam spot incidence region being set equal to or larger than a beam spot diameter of the signal beam or the reference beam at a diffraction limit thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The holographic recording medium in accordance with claim 5, wherein the beam spot incidence region and the filter region have different optical constants from each other.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The holographic recording medium in accordance with claim 5, wherein the beam spot incidence region is constituted as a reflection region of the signal beam and the reference beam, and the filter region is constituted as an absorption region of the signal beam and the reference beam.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The holographic recording medium in accordance with claim 6, wherein the beam spot incidence region is constituted as a reflection region of the signal beam and the reference beam, and the filter region is constituted as an

absorption region of the signal beam and the reference beam.

9. (Currently Amended) A holographic recording medium comprising: ~~at least~~  
a recording layer in which data are to be recorded as phase information of light by projecting a signal beam and a reference beam thereonto; ~~and~~  
a reflective surface disposed on the opposite side of the recording layer as viewed in the direction of signal beam and reference beam incidence on the holographic recording medium and formed with a convex pattern or a concave pattern having a trapezoidal cross-section, a minimum width of a convex surface of the convex pattern or a concave surface of the concave pattern being set equal to or larger than a beam spot diameter of the signal beam or the reference beam at a diffraction limit thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The holographic recording medium in accordance with claim 9, wherein the convex surface of the convex pattern or the concave surface of the concave pattern is shaped substantially circular in the direction of the signal beam or the reference beam incident on the holographic recording medium.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The holographic recording medium in accordance with claim 9, wherein the convex surface of the convex pattern or the concave surface of the concave pattern is shaped to be band-like in the direction of the signal beam or the reference beam incident on the holographic recording medium.